

Green Economy?

The World Economic Forum estimates the biomass economy will be worth about 300 billion dollars by 2020 but the real figure may be as high as half a trillion dollars.

Bio-electricity: Aside from gobbling up large areas of forest and plantation land, biomass burning also poses significant health risks for communities situated close to power plants. Produces more CO₂ at the smokestack per unit of energy than the coal.

Biofuels: At least 200 companies are now working on developing these 'next generation' biofuels. The hottest biofuel companies are now owned or partnered with major oil companies such as Shell, BP, Chevron, Total and Exxon. Many also are employing a high risk form of extreme genetic engineering known as synthetic biology where artificial microbes are used to ferment biomass into fuels.

Bio-based chemicals and plastics: About 3.2 million metric tonnes of plastics are expected to be bio-based by 2015. ADM, Cargill, Coca cola, Proctor and Gamble and others are driving forward the bioplastics market, selling them as a 'green' option for consumers even though many bioplastics cannot be recycled or biodegrade and in some cases carry the same toxicity threats as oil based plastics. (Beware the Biomass Economy by Jim Thomas, ETC Group, Canada. <http://rio20.net/en/documentos/beware-the-biomass-economy>)

Once nature and its services are commodified, their likelihood of trade-off in a capitalist market cannot be ruled out. CAMPA is one such compensatory afforestation scheme in India that allows forest bureaucracy to justify diversion of protected/forested areas for mining and tourism activities on the pretext that it offers better returns from the same patch of land. The value of forests as 'carbon sinks' is equally dangerous as it allows financing companies, in connivance with the government, to legitimize the enclosure of forests from all use by people, based on often unauthenticated carbon storage figures. (Watch the shades of 'Green Economy' by Sudhirender Sharma. 27 October, 2011).

From economy to oeconomy

- Adopt the new word "œconomy" to describe the systemic change.. with new goals, new concepts, new actors, new institutions, new policies .
- Adopt the charter of universal responsibilities responsibility, to your impact and not to your constituency.
- Create a multi-dimensional currency --one for human work & the other for natural resources and energy
- Support a multi-level governance of production, exchange and consumption.(going beyond nation state)
- Adopt relevant governance regimes for the different goods and services
- Promote global sustainable supply chain, notably through WTO
- Acknowledge territories as pivotal actors of the œconomy and give territories the means to manage their natural, material, human and immaterial capital

(By Pierre Calame, Forum for a New World Governance. Seven leverage points for the passage from economy to oeconomy. <http://rio20.net/en/propuestas/seven-leverage-points-for-the-passage-from-economy-to-oeconomy>)